

STATEMENT OF THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for removing target material from a substrate, the method comprising directing a supply of particulate material toward a target zone of target material present on the substrate and directing radiant optical energy toward the target zone, the radiant optical energy interacting with the target material and the particulate material to thereby promote removal of target material from the substrate, wherein the particulate material is a material in solid state at ambient temperature and the radiant optical energy produces a sublimation interaction between the radiant optical energy and the particulate material.

2. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the radiant optical energy is selected from the group of:

- i) light energy;
- ii) light energy that includes wavelengths in the visible range of the spectrum; and
- iii) light energy that is limited to wavelengths in the visible range of the spectrum.

3 - 4 (cancelled)

5. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the interaction between the radiant optical energy and the particulate material produces ~~is~~ at least one of:

- i) ~~a thermal~~ heat interaction that heats material at the target zone;
- ii) ~~an interaction that results in~~ a blast or shock medium acting at the target zone;
- iii) ~~an interaction that results in the~~ evolution of gas having properties providing a physical or chemical interaction with material at the target zone; and
- ~~iv) a sublimation interaction; and~~
- ~~v) iv)~~ iv) an interaction that produces carbon dioxide.

6. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the interaction between the radiant optical energy and the target material is at least one of a thermal interaction and an interaction effecting ablation or pyrolysis of the target material.

7 - 12 (cancelled)

13. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the radiant optical energy is delivered as one of a pulse of optical energy and a series of pulses.

14. (cancelled)

15. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the particulate material is directed across the target zone in a direction transverse to the direction of the directed radiant optical energy.

16. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the particulate material is directed to the target zone during at least one of:

- i) times when the radiant optical energy is also directed to the target zone; and
- ii) times when radiant optical energy is not directed to the target zone.

17. (cancelled)

18. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the particulate material comprises bicarbonate of soda in particulate form.

19. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the particulate material is delivered entrained in a transport gas.

20. (original) A method according to claim 19, wherein the transport gas is pressurised air.

21. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the radiant optical energy is delivered by a flashlamp delivery system.

22. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the radiant optical energy is delivered in pulse form, the energy density of the energy at the target zone being substantially in the range between 5 J/cm^2 and 150 J/cm^2 .

23. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the spectrum of the radiant optical energy is variable in a controlled manner.

24. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the particulate material and the radiant optical energy is delivered via a combined delivery unit that is portable and/or hand held manipulatable.

25. (cancelled)

26. (previously presented) A method of removing graffiti or other unwanted material from an architectural or vehicle surface, the method comprising:

directing a supply of particulate material toward a target zone of the substrate, the particulate material being in solid phase at ambient temperature; and

directing radiant optical energy toward the target zone, the radiant optical energy:

i) interacting with the target material in a thermal interaction resulting in ablation or pyrolysis of at least some of the target material, and

ii) interacting with the particulate material in a sublimation reaction evolving a gas having a blast effect at the target zone.

27 - 34 (cancelled)